



Storm Water Ad-Hoc Advisory Taskforce

AGENDA

Thursday, June 20, 2013

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

DPW Conference Room-DPW Engineering Center

Locust Street

Northampton, MA

1. Members present/absent and Call to Order-
2. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting -
3. Public Comment-Speakers are asked to provide their names and ward
4. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from May 29, 2013
5. Presentation of any new fee algorithms from committee members
6. Any Report from DPW-Jim Laurila-
7. Review of Progress of Report Section Drafts by Committee Members
8. Individual Member comments on Report
9. Report Writing-Who does what next
10. Path Forward
11. New Business-Reserved for topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.
12. Setting Next Meeting Date-
13. Public Comments-
14. Adjourn

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Storm Water Advisory Task Force

*Emory Ford, Chair
Dan Felten, Vice-Chair*

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2013

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Public Works Conference Room
125 Locust Street, Northampton, MA

- Members present:** Alex Ghiselin, Chris Hellman, Robert Reckman, Ruth McGrath, Dan Felten, Rick Clark, Megan Murphy Wolf, Emory Ford, John Shennette
Members absent: David Teece, James Dostal
City Staff Attendees: James R. Laurila, P.E. City Engineer, Doug McDonald, Stormwater Manager, Ned Huntley, P.E. Director of Public Works

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Emory Ford, Chair.

2. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting

The meeting was video recorded by North Street Association, Ruth McGrath. Videos of these meetings will be posted on youtube and a link will be placed on the DPW website.

3. Public Comment

Resident Fred Zimnoch made four points. First, he is concerned about the possible escalating fees as shown in Table 5.11 of the CDM report. He urged the Task Force to recommend a cap. Secondly, he retracted his earlier statement that the ERU method for his property is more expensive than the proposed Proposition 2 ½ over-ride. Third, he asked that the Task Force include a process for a resident to request an abatement. Lastly, he said the Felton Methods are the best but he found Felton3 to be obscure and wondered why the 2-family rate is less expensive than the rate for a single family home.

Resident Paul Walker said he understands the problem but that federal and state issues are not mandates. He said taxpayers are being lied to and asked - why is stormwater a mandate? He said there is an economic downturn and it's not right to be setting new fees.

4. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2013

The minutes were approved for the June 13th meeting.

5. Presentation of any new fee algorithms from committee members

No new fee algorithms were proposed. Mr. Laurila indicated that he and Mr. McDonald provided some support to Mr. Clark and Mr. Felten as they explored the details of the hydraulic acreage model. Slightly revised fee calculations were provided for the hydraulic acreage model. Revised sample calculations were provided for the Clark2 model and the hydraulic acreage model. The details of the two recommended models were discussed by the Task Force.

6. Any Report from DPW – Jim Laurila

No specific report had been requested and none was provided.

7. Review of Progress of Report Section Drafts by Committee Members

8. Individual Member Comments on Report

9. Report Writing – Who does what next

Ms. McGrath distributed a draft glossary and requested that the members review it and add any other terms as appropriate. Mr. Clark suggested that the draft report be reviewed to determine if other definitions are needed. He also suggested using EPA documents for determining definitions. Mr. Shennette said that he would have a compiled final report for all to review before July 8th. The compiled draft will be sent by email and no further Task Force meetings will be needed. All members agreed to review the compiled draft report to be sent by Mr. Shennette and let him know if they have any comments. There was discussion about how best to incorporate a reference to the CDM report and any implications related to the Task Force work. The pros and cons of adding an Executive Summary to the final report were discussed. There was discussion about whether a presentation of the report to the Joint Committee on July 8th was needed. Ultimately it was agreed that the final report would be provided to the Joint Committee before July 8th and that no formal presentation would be made. All task force members present indicated their intention on attending the July 8th meeting and being able to assist with answering questions that may arise. Mr. Ford offered to do a brief introduction at the July 8th meeting.

10. Path Forward

This was discussed above.

11. New Business – Reserved for topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

No new business was introduced.

12. Setting Next Meeting Date

No additional task force meetings were scheduled. The Task Force will meet with the Conference Committee on July 8, 2013.

13. Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.